

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1-8 are withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. By this Amendment, claims 1, 9 and 12 are amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the original claims. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Objection

The Office Action objects to claim 9 because of informalities. By this Amendment, claim 9 is amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. By this Amendment, claims 9 and 12 are amended in light of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2003-327603 to Takeda et al. ("Takeda"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 9 recites, *inter alia*, "a cosmetic composition comprising a cation-modified *purified* galactomannan polysaccharide . . . , the purified galactomannan polysaccharide being prepared by purifying a crude galactomannan polysaccharide, . . . , and containing 80 wt% of galactomannan." Takeda fails to disclose, either expressly or inherently, such features.

Takeda merely discloses that a cation-modified tara gum is suitable as a component of a hair care product. Takeda is silent as to the content of a galactomannan polymer. Nor does

Takeda disclose, either expressly or inherently, "a cation-modified purified galactomannan polysaccharide ... containing 80 wt% of galactomannan," as required by claim 9.

Thus, Takeda does not anticipate claims 9 and its dependent claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Rejoinder

Rejoinder of non-elected process claims 1-8 is respectfully requested. Claims 1-8 require all the features of claim 9 and, thus, should be rejoined upon allowance of claim 9. Because claim 9 is believed to be allowable for at least the reasons discussed above, withdrawal of the restriction requirement and rejoinder, examination, and allowance of claims 1-8 are respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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